

## REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner's reconsideration of the present application. Claims 1, 26, 50 and 51 have been amended. Claims 21, 45 and 62 have been cancelled. No new claims have been added. Therefore, claims 1-4, 8-13, 17-20, 22-29, 33-38, 42-44, 46-55, 58-61 and 63 are presented for examination.

Claims 1-4, 8-13, 17-19, 22-23, 26-29, 33-38, 42-44, 47-48, 51-55, 58-59, 60-61 and 63 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Sakurai et al.*, U.S. Patent No. 6,600,930 ("*Sakurai*") in view of *Suda et al.*, U.S. Patent No. 6,385,177 ("*Suda*"). Applicant respectfully submits that the present claims are patentable over the combination of *Sakurai* and *Suda*. Claims 24-25 and 49-50 stand rejected under 25 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Sakurai et al.* in view of *Suda* and further in view of *Parulski et al.*, U.S. Patent Application No. 2001/00119359 ("*Parulski*"). Applicant respectfully submits that the present claims are patentable over the combination of *Sakurai*, *Suda* and *Parulski*.

The examiner stated that claims 20-21, 45-46 and 62 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims. The claims have been so amended. In particular, claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of allowable claim 21. Claim 26 has been amended to include the limitations of allowable claim 45. Claim 51 has been amended to include the limitations of allowable claim 62.

Claims 2-4, 8-13, 17-20 and 22-25 depend from and further limit claim 1. Claims 27-29, 33-38, 42-44 and 46-50 depend from and further limit claim 26. Claims 52-55, 58-61 and 63 depend from and further limit claim 51. Therefore, applicant respectfully submits that claims 2-4, 8-13, 17-20, 22-25, 27-29, 33-38, 42-44, 46-50, 52-55, 58-61 and 63 are

Patentable for at least the same reasons advanced above with regard to claims 1, 26 and 51, and requests withdrawal of the 35 USC 103(a) rejections.

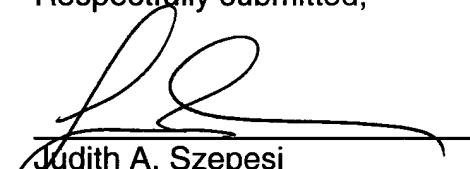
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that all the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the application and allowance of the pending claims.

If the Examiner finds any remaining impediment to the prompt allowance of these claims that could be clarified with a telephone conference, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Judith A. Szepesi at (408) 720-8598.

If there are any additional charges, please charge Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

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